

Claims

1. (currently amended) An easel, comprising:

a first hollow vertical support member including a first hollow interior and a first pulley assembly positioned completely within said first hollow interior;

a second hollow vertical support member including a second hollow interior and a second pulley assembly positioned completely within said second hollow interior;

a first horizontal support member secured directly to and extending between said first vertical support member and said second vertical support member and adapted to secure a first edge of an artist work piece thereto; and

a second horizontal support member secured directly to and extending between said first vertical support member and said second vertical support member and adapted to secure a second edge of an artist work piece thereto,

wherein said first horizontal support member is moved vertically on said first hollow vertical support member by said first pulley assembly and said second horizontal support member is moved vertically on said second hollow vertical support member by said second pulley assembly, ~~and wherein said first horizontal support member is moved independently of said second horizontal support member.~~

2. (currently amended) An easel according to claim 1 wherein said first hollow vertical support member includes a first vertical groove and wherein said first horizontal support member extends through said first vertical groove, and wherein said second hollow vertical support member includes a second vertical groove and wherein said first

horizontal support member extends through said second vertical groove.

3. (canceled).

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended) An easel according to claim 2 wherein said first hollow interior includes a first pulley weight track, ~~a wheel track, and a horizontal support member track~~ positioned adjacent said first vertical groove and wherein said second hollow interior includes a second pulley weight track, ~~a wheel track, and a horizontal support member track~~ positioned adjacent said second vertical groove.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) An easel according to claim 1 further comprising a third pulley assembly positioned within said first hollow interior and said first horizontal support member and a fourth pulley assembly positioned within said second hollow interior and said second horizontal support member, wherein said second horizontal support member is moved vertically on said first vertical support member by said third pulley assembly and is moved vertically on said second vertical support member by said fourth pulley assembly, ~~and wherein said second horizontal support member is moved independently of said first horizontal support member.~~

8. (original) An easel according to claim 7 wherein said first pulley assembly is positioned in a top region of said first vertical support member, said second pulley assembly is positioned in a top region of said second vertical support member, said third pulley assembly is positioned in a central region of said first vertical support member, and said fourth pulley assembly is positioned in a central region of said second vertical support member.

9. (original) An easel according to claim 1 further comprising a rail sleeve slidably mounted on said first horizontal support member, said rail sleeve securing a first edge of an artist work piece from rearward movement relative to said first horizontal support member.

10. (original) An easel according to claim 9 further comprising a rail sleeve insert secured on said rail sleeve, said rail sleeve insert securing said first edge of said artist work piece from lateral movement along said first horizontal support member.

11. (original) An easel according to claim 1 further comprising a ceiling bracket secured to a top region of said first vertical support member and a floor bracket secured to a bottom region of said first vertical support member.

12. (currently amended) An easel for supporting an artist work piece, comprising:

a vertical support member including an interior cavity;

a pulley system positioned completely within said interior cavity, said pulley system adapted for moving a horizontal support member on said vertical support member; and

a horizontal support member secured to said pulley system and extending into said interior cavity of said vertical support member.

13. (currently amended) An easel according to claim 12 wherein said interior cavity includes a pulley weight track, ~~a wheel track~~ and a ~~vertical~~ horizontal support member track.

14. (currently amended) An easel according to claim 13 wherein said pulley system comprises:

a pulley weight slidably positioned within said pulley weight track;

~~a wheel movably positioned within said wheel track,~~
~~a wheel axle extending through said wheel and an end region of said vertical support member positioned within said vertical support member track,~~

a pulley roller; and

a pulley cable secured in a first end region to said pulley weight and in a second end region to said horizontal support member ~~wheel axle~~, and extending over said pulley roller.

15. (currently amended) An easel according to claim 12 further comprising a ~~stabilizer plate positioned against said vertical support member and having an aperture,~~ said ~~horizontal support member extending through said aperture and into said interior of said vertical support member~~

clamp that releasably secures said horizontal support member on said vertical support member.

16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended) An easel according to claim 15 further comprising a brake block secured to said ~~stabilizer plate~~ clamp and positioned within said vertical support member interior cavity.

18. (currently amended) A support structure for an artist work piece, comprising:

vertical support means for supporting a horizontal support means, said vertical support means including ~~an~~ a hollow interior cavity;

vertical translation means for vertically translating a horizontal support means on said vertical support means, said vertical translation means positioned completely within said hollow interior cavity; and

horizontal support means for horizontally supporting an artist work piece, said horizontal support means secured to said vertical translation means.

19. (currently amended) A support structure according to claim 18 wherein said vertical support means comprises:

a pulley weight track;

~~first and second pulley wheel tracks each positioned adjacent said pulley weight track, and~~

~~said first and second pulley wheel tracks together defining a horizontal support means track therebetween.~~

20. (currently amended) A support structure according to claim 18 further comprising a floor bracket, a ceiling bracket and a brake bracket, ~~wherein said pulley weight track, said first and second pulley wheel tracks, and said horizontal support means track each extend through said floor bracket, said ceiling bracket and said brake bracket.~~

21. (currently amended) An artist's easel, comprising:

a pair of vertical supports, each support including a ~~rectangular~~ cross section having a weight track, ~~two pulley wheel tracks~~ and a wheel-axle horizontal support track ~~extending between said two pulley wheel tracks;~~

a pair of horizontal supports each including a first end extending into said wheel-axle horizontal support track of one of said pair of vertical supports and each including a second end extending into said wheel-axle horizontal support track of the other of said pair of vertical supports;

first and second pulley assemblies positioned ~~completely~~ within both an interior cavity of one of said pair of vertical supports and one of said pair of said horizontal supports; and

third and fourth pulley assemblies positioned ~~completely~~ within both an interior cavity of the other of said pair of vertical supports and the other of said pair of said horizontal supports,

wherein one of said horizontal supports is secured to said first and third pulley assemblies for movement along said vertical supports, and wherein the other of said horizontal supports is secured to said second and fourth

pulley assemblies for movement along said vertical supports.

22. (original) An easel according to claim 21 wherein said pair of vertical supports each define a depth, said easel defines a depth, and wherein said depth of said vertical supports is the same as the depth of said easel.